



Application No. 08/894,356  
Attorney's Docket No. 001560-308

E1 4. (Twice Amended) The gene according to claim 1 encoding any of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID No. 1 to 6, or a modified amino acid sequence thereof in which the amino acid sequence is modified by addition or removal of one or more amino acids, or substitution with other amino acid(s) and which retain aromatic acyl group transfer activity.

E2 7. (Twice Amended) The gene according to claim 1 encoding a protein which [has] consists of an amino acid sequence [having a homology of] which is at least 15% [or higher] homologous to [with] any one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID No. 1 to 6, and which has aromatic acyl group transfer activity.

7 E3 24. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim [19] 20 wherein the pigment is <sup>h</sup>antocyanin.

Sub 627 25. (Twice Amended) A plant whose color has been controlled by introducing thereinto a gene according to claim 1, or its progeny [having the same property] which has its color controlled, or tissues thereof.

Please add the following new claims 28-45:

Sub 74 E4 28. A gene encoding a protein, which gene encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences as set forth in SEQ ID No. 1 to 6, or hybridizes with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences as set forth in SEQ ID No. 1 to 6 under the condition of  $5 \times \text{SSC}$

and 50°C or the condition of  $2 \times$  SSD and 50°C, and which protein has aromatic acyl group transfer activity.

29. A vector comprising a gene according to claim 28.

30. A host transformed with a vector according to claim 29.

31. A host according to claim 30 wherein said host is a microbial or animal cell.

32. A host according to claim 30 wherein said host is a plant cell or a plant body.

33. A method for acylating a pigment in a plant, comprising the steps of introducing a gene according to claim 28 into the plant, allowing said gene to express, and acylating the pigment in the plant with the protein produced.

34. A method for stabilizing a pigment in a plant, comprising the steps of introducing a gene according to claim 28 into the plant, allowing said gene to express, and acylating the pigment in the plant with the protein produced.

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35. A method for controlling the color of flowers, comprising the steps of introducing the gene according to claim 28 into a plant, allowing said gene to express, and acylating the pigment in the plant with the protein produced.

36. A plant whose color has been controlled by introducing therein a gene according to claim 28, or its progeny having the same property, or tissues thereof.

*E4*

37. The plant tissue according to claim 36 wherein said tissue is a flower.

38. A cut flower of the plant according to claim 36 or its progeny having the same property.

39. The method according to claim 33, wherein the pigment is anthocyanin.

40. The method according to claim 34, wherein the pigment is anthocyanin.

41. The method according to claim 35, wherein the pigment is anthocyanin.

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42. The gene according to claim 5, wherein the part of the nucleotide sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21.